



**Lewis County Public Health & Social Services**

# **News Release**

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## **First death from COVID-19 reported in Lewis County**

Chehalis, WA – Lewis County Public Health & Social Services (LCPHSS) confirmed today that a Lewis County resident has died due to complications related to COVID-19.

LCPHSS Director J.P. Anderson said, “On behalf of Lewis County, we extend our deepest sympathies to the family and loved ones. Even though we knew this day was likely to come for someone in Lewis County, facing this reality today is still very hard.”

The patient was a resident in their 80’s who had been hospitalized outside of the county for several weeks and had other underlying health conditions in addition to COVID-19 infection. The infection most likely occurred in Lewis County.

Lewis County Health Officer Dr. Rachel Wood said, “I know many Lewis County residents are concerned about the dangers from this disease. This tragic death reminds us all that its impact can be permanent and painful to everyone left behind.”

To date, 16 Lewis County residents have tested positive for COVID-19. This includes residents of the Twin Cities; towns in the east, west, and south parts of the county; as well as rural Lewis County.

Dr. Wood said the continuing spread of the coronavirus underscores the need for everyone to remain vigilant. “The virus can only spread by human contact,” she said. “Social distancing and personal hygiene are things we all must keep doing to help end this pandemic and reduce suffering.”

For current information on COVID-19 in Lewis County, follow @LCPHSS on Twitter, <https://www.facebook.com/lcphss/> and visit <https://lewiscountywa.gov/covid19/>.

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